



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

stituency on a subject with which everyone may be presumed to be familiar, what credence can we give to the historian's account of obscure events belonging to distant climes or vanished centuries? One final horrid thought shall conclude this train of reflections: We have never visited the Great Cave, and in the light of Mr. Pedigo's report we never expect to visit it. How, then, can we really know whether he himself is not spoofing us, under the impulse of a perverted sense of humor—whether the thrilling descriptions of the Great Cave recorded in our local histories are not, after all, plain unvarnished tales of simple truth?

WHISKERS

Social customs, like the Arabs, oftentimes "silently steal away," leaving the public unconscious of the change which their disappearance has brought about. We are moved to this reflection by the observation of a friend, looking at a collection of pictures of members of the Wisconsin legislature of 1862, "How much older than present-day legislators they look." The observation was correct, but did the facts in the premises bear out the surface appearances? Are our legislators of today a more youthful body of men than those whom our grandfathers chose to represent them? If not, why the more venerable appearance of the men of long ago? We think the answer is to be found in the word at the head of this article—"whiskers." The legislators whom our grandfathers delighted to honor were no more aged than those of today, but custom then decreed that a man's face should be adorned with a beard, while today the pendulum of fashion swings so far in the other direction that a cabinet officer can achieve a nation-wide reputation for bravery merely by supporting luxuriant mutton-chop whiskers.

Poor indeed is the modern historian, however, who cannot cite his authority for every statement he makes. To demonstrate our right to be numbered in the circle of the elect we

proceed to support with the following statistics the more or less weighty conclusions we have advanced. One of the most notable bodies of men ever assembled in Wisconsin was that which in 1847-48 framed our present state constitution. Information is lacking concerning the prevalence in this convention of hirsute facial adornment, but we have complete data as to ages of the members. The youngest was twenty-five, the oldest sixty-five. But of the entire 69 members all but 4 were under fifty years, 43 were under forty years, and 12 were under thirty years of age. It seems evident, therefore, that our pioneer lawmakers were not more venerable than those now in our midst. Whiskers continued to abound in Wisconsin at least until the early eighties. In the Assembly of 1879 were 4 men with clean-shaved faces, 14 with mustaches, and 83 with beards. In 1915, thirty-six years later, the 4 clean faces had increased to 48, while the 83 bearded ones had decreased to 4; the remaining 52 members in 1915 adopted the middle-of-the-road policy of disporting a mustache with no counterbalancing beard. Of like import are the statistics for the graver branch of the legislature. In the Senate of 1880 were 3 clean-shaved men and 27 bewhiskered ones; in that of 1913 were 18 faces bare of adornment while 2 disported beards.